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after astronomy. The typography and general make-up of the book leave nothing to be desired, and there are very few typographical errors in the text proper, but owing to hasty proof-reading an unusually large number of such occur in the numerous citations in foreign languages, which will doubtless be corrected in another edition. It has a good index.

LESTER F. WARD.

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The Workers (The East). An Experiment in Reality. By WALTER A. WYCKOFF. Pp. xiii, 270. Price, \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1897.

Mr. Wyckoff, who is now Lecturer in Sociology at Princeton University, gives in this very readable volume, the contents of which have already attracted wide attention as they appeared in the form of articles in *Scribner's Magazine* last year, a view of the life of the unskilled laborer in certain industries in the East. The author seeks to furnish an accurate account of the unskilled laborer's view of life as well as to give a clear picture of the social and economic conditions acting upon him. The author spent some time in southeastern New York and northern Pennsylvania in actual experience with the problems which he discusses. He set out in July, 1891, with a small pack and dressed as an ordinary workingman in search of work, willing to turn his hand to anything that might earn for him the next meal or a night's lodging, and without any special fitness for manual occupation. He relates his experiences with a vividness that holds the reader's attention from beginning to end; his command of language and his power of expression have made his work a literary success. The experiences gathered in the present volume, which is to be followed soon by one dealing with conditions in the West, cover a period of little over three months, during which time he was occupied for more or less considerable periods as a day-laborer at West Point, as a hotel porter, as a hired man at an asylum for the insane in southeastern New York, as a farm-hand in northeastern Pennsylvania, and as a laborer in a logging camp in a lumber district near Williamsport.

To the real student of labor problems much of this experience will seem to be too fragmentary a basis for far-reaching deductions from the facts presented in Mr. Wyckoff's book. Indeed, one chief merit of the book is that the author himself does not make any sweeping or far-reaching deductions; he allows his narrative to

produce its effect through its strong human interest. The conclusions are somewhat uneven in their value for the student; those dealing with the life of the unskilled laborer at West Point and of the farm-hand furnish more food for reflection to the students of labor conditions than the others. Studies which help us to get at the psychology underlying the life of the different classes in society, are of great importance, and Mr. Wyckoff's book, in view of the fact that it will reach a large number of readers and hold their interest, will be productive of much good in stimulating the right kind of study of social questions. On the basis of the same experience, however, Mr. Wyckoff could doubtless give a much deeper and far-reaching analysis of the psychology of the unskilled laborer for the benefit of technical and scientific audiences. Something has necessarily been sacrificed in making this narrative readable and interesting for the general public.

SAMUEL McCUNE LINDSAY.